



The BARC Newsletter is published quarterly by Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) to provide news and information on agricultural research and development to the NARS and other concerned organizations in Bangladesh.

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BARC Newsletter

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Prime Minister Calls for Climate Compatible Rice



Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressing the inaugural ceremony of Celebration of 50th Anniversary of IRRI

Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina called upon the scientists to invent new varieties of rice compatible with the climate change and varied seasons saying that "We have to produce rice that will harmonize with the seasonal changes and adjust the changing climate." She made this call during her speech at the inaugural session of a two-day program jointly organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre on 13 July to mark the *IRRI's 50th Anniversary*. The inaugural session was followed by a workshop on *The Methods Used in Modern Cultivation* and a two-day Rice Fair inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

Begum Matia Chowdhury, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, and Dr. M.A. Razzaque, Hon'ble Minister for Food and Disaster Management attended the program as special guests while Director General of IRRI Robert Zeigler was present as guest of honor.

Dr. Wais Kabir, Executive Chairman, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council presented the keynote paper while Dr. M. Zainul Abedin, IRRI Representative for Bangladesh, delivered the welcome address. Mr. C Q K Mustaq Ahmed, Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture chaired the inaugural session.

The Chief Guest Hon'ble Prime Minister called for the development of more technologies suitable for biotic and abiotic stresses like flood, drought, cold, pests. Southern districts being vulnerable to natural disasters like *Sidr* and *Aila* in the recent past were of serious concerns to the government. She requested development partners to give due emphasis on this region as a priority issue. She further said government has policies approved for agriculture and seeds and hoped to make Bangladesh self sufficient in food by 2013 through implementing the policies. While appreciating contributions of scientists for developing submergence and saline tolerant varieties the Hon'ble Prime Minister urged the scientists to work hard. The Hon'ble Prime Minister said one of the main components of the high yielding variety of rice is water for irrigation. She mentioned that this issue has been taken into consideration greatly as the use of underground water increased alarmingly. She urged the scientists to devise new varieties of paddy that would require comparatively less water for its irrigation. She assured the scientists

to give special facilities and incentives so that the researchers can concentrate on their research works. Through the use of modern technologies, Bangladesh would be able to send food to other poor countries of the world, the Hon'ble PM hoped.

Begum Matia Chowdhury, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture thanked IRRI for providing germplasm of stress tolerant varieties and suggested for human resources development for upstream research. She called for more short duration varieties suitable for different seasons of Bangladesh. She recalled the history of bringing IR-8 in late sixties which used to be called 'IRRI dhan.' Since then farmers call all high yielding rice varieties 'IRRI dhan'. She said Bangladesh has good friendly linkage with IRRI, adding that 'As a gesture of friendship we pay some money to IRRI, although we get much more'. IRRI would develop varieties suiting the needs of farmers, she hoped.

Dr. M.A. Razzaque, Hon'ble Minister for Food and Disaster Management congratulated IRRI for its contribution to ensure food security. He referred to the role of IRRI in achieving food self sufficiency and improving health and livelihood of farmers.

Dr. Wais Kabir, Executive Chairman, BARC in his keynote address especially referred to the technologies that contributed towards the achievement of food self sufficiency by increasing rice production three times more compared to that in 1972 when the production was only 11 million tons. He also highlighted the BRRI-released 52 rice varieties including 4 hybrid rice, 2 submergence tolerant rice, 3 salt tolerant rice varieties, alternate wetting and drying, use of thrusts on problem areas, research on green super rice, golden rice and management of technologies. "If these technologies are properly adopted and disseminated, the country will not only be self sufficient, it will be surplus in food as well", Dr. Kabir hoped.

Dr. Zeigler, referring to the submergence tolerant rice varieties developed with close cooperation of IRRI and BRRI, highlighted some plans on upstream research being taken up by IRRI in

collaboration with different global NARS partners. Dr. Zeigler assured the Chief Guest of all kinds of technical supports related to agriculture with special relevance to food production and income generation.

Dr. Zainul Abedin welcomed the guests and delegates and thanked the Ministry of Agriculture for organizing and providing leadership in arranging this program. He especially thanked the Hon'ble Prime Minister for her kind presence. He briefly highlighted contributions of IRRI-BRRI collaborative approach towards food security issues of the country.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by about 2,500 delegates from the government departments, research organizations, donor agencies, development partners, public and private seed-producing agencies, universities, NGOs, retired executives of various organizations, eminent agricultural scientists, farmers and journalists.

Thirty five government organizations, seed companies, agricultural machinery manufacturing companies joined the rice fair and displayed their products, technologies and activities especially as far as rice production is concerned. BARC published a souvenir on the 'Celebration of IRRI's 50th Anniversary' on the occasion.

BFRI Received National Fish Week 2010 Gold Medal

Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute (BFRI) has been awarded *National Fish Week 2010 Gold Medal* for outstanding contribution in the field of fisheries research especially for genetic improvement of local popular fish rohu (*Labeo rohita*). Dr. M.G. Hussain, Director General, BFRI received the award from Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the event of *Fish Week 2010*, inaugurated on 21 July at Osmani Memorial Auditorium, Dhaka. The scientists of Freshwater Station, BFRI developed the improved variety of local rohu through mass selection techniques from existing stocks of BFRI and stocks collected from the Jamuna and the Brahmaputra rivers.

The improved rohu variety is 15% more productive than the local one. It has been planned to distribute the brood of improved variety through brood bank of Department of Fisheries.



Dr. M.G. Hussain, Director General, BFRI being awarded Gold Medal by the Hon'ble Prime Minister

Wheat Cultivation in Southern Region as Rabi Crop: New Possibilities

The prospect of extending wheat cultivation in more than 4.5 lac hectares of land in the southern region of Bangladesh is high and encouraging and it may add another 4 lac tons of wheat in the national production. Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture Begum Matia Chowdhury called upon the scientists to think over the findings of the report of FAO taking into consideration the profitability of farmers out of existing practice of agricultural production in the rabi season. She made this call while addressing as chief guest in a workshop on *Wheat Cultivation in the Southern Region of Bangladesh: Prospect of Increased Production of Rabi Crops* held at BARC auditorium on 15 September 2010. The meeting was presided over by Dr. Wais Kabir, Executive Chairman of BARC, where Mr. C Q K Mustaq Ahmed was present as special guest. Justin Lee, High Commissioner of the Australian High Commission in Bangladesh and Dr. Ciro Fiorillo, FAO Representative in Bangladesh (a.i) were also present as the guests of honour. Dr. Howard M Rawson, Crop Physiologist and Consultant, ACIAR Southern Bangladesh Project, being

implemented by CIMMYT, WRC, BARI, DAE and other associated organizations, presented the keynote paper on *Wheat Cultivation in Southern Bangladesh: the Potential for Expanding in the Rabi season*. The 3-year ACIAR wheat project-2007 have been commenced with the objective of improving the livelihood of the farmers of southern region of Bangladesh through extending wheat cultivation after rice in the rabi period. In his keynote paper Dr. Rawson said it is not true that wheat is not suitable in the southern region due to hot and humid climate and high soil salinity. But the research conducted during last 6 years in various districts of the southern region with newly developed heat tolerant varieties brought wheat cultivation in the region back to reality with possibility of production of 3.5 t/ha which is close to country's national average. It was claimed that since the water table in the southern region occurs in upper soil it dose not require or requires only one irrigation 20 days after sowing along with the application of balance fertilizers to get better yield. Due to presence of aquifer in the upper level, the time of sowing delayed by few days compared to the northern areas does not affect the yield.



Begum Matia Chowdhury, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture addressing the workshop

Immediately after harvesting transplanted rice, wheat cultivation can be started following the technologies developed from the research. Hon'ble Agriculture Minister admitted that every year we

require to import wheat to ensure food security. Reiterating the consequences of introducing wheat in the rabi season eliminating the existing practices, she drew attention of all concerned to give importance on the sustainable benefit of the farmers.

National Information Sharing Mechanism on Global Plan of Action

Training-workshop on *National Information Sharing Mechanism on Global Plan of Action (NISM-GPA)* under the project Capacity Building and Regional Collaboration for Enhancing Conservation and Use of PGR in Asia was held during 18-19 July 2010 at Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council. The Training Program was conducted by Crops Division, BARC. The inaugural ceremony of the training-workshop was held on 18 July 2010. Mr. CQK Mustaq Ahmed, Secretary of Ministry of Agriculture was present as the chief guest and Mr. Ad Spijkers, FAO Representative in Bangladesh was present as Special Guest. Dr. Wais Kabir, Executive Chairman, BARC chaired the inaugural ceremony.

Dr. Md. Khalequzzaman A. Chowdhury, Member Director (Crops), BARC & Focal point of the project in his welcome address highlighted the objectives of the program. He mentioned that plant genetic resources are the key components of any agricultural production system under any eco-system. Conservation and proper management of plant genetic resources are, therefore, very important. The intense pressure on plant genetic diversity will continue to increase unless appropriate measures for conservation and sustainable use are undertaken. Hon'ble chief guest Mr. CQK Mustaq Ahmed said, in the recent years, over exploitation of natural resources and natural calamities threatened plant genetic resources (PGR) and thus it hinders crop improvement process. Effective conservation, exchange and use of PGR would help sustainable

crop improvement. He believed that this training workshop would be very effective for those dealing with PGR especially by acquiring updated knowledge of conservation, its sustainable utilization and through sharing mechanism of PGR. Mr. CQK Mustaq Ahmed further said agriculture is the primary base of livelihood and economy in most of the developing countries. Over the last forty years, many Asian countries namely India, Bangladesh, China, Philippines, Myanmar and Vietnam have been the part of the successful story of the Green Revolution, particularly with regard to paddy rice production.



A view of the Training-Workshop on NISM on Global Plan of Action

Forty participants from 20 different organizations including NARS institutes and representatives from other public, private organizations including NGOs, CDB, BAU, BADC, SCA, DAE, BNH, DU, SAU, BSMRAU, Supreme Seed Ltd., and Lal Teer Seed Ltd. attended the training-workshop.

Progress and Finalization of Work Plans

A day long review workshop on *Progress of Work Plan 2009-2010 and Finalization of Work Plan 2010-2011*, of BARC was held at BARC August 2010. The

workshop was organized by the Planning and Evaluation Division of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council. The objective of the workshop was to review the progress of work plan 2009-10 and finalize the work plan 2010-11. Dr. Wais Kabir, Executive Chairman, BARC chaired the workshop and Dr. Sk. Ghulam Hussain, Member-Director (Planning & Evaluation),



Dr. Wais Kabir exchanging his views with BARC officials in the Annual Workplan Meeting.

BARC acted as moderator. Dr. Md. Abdus Salam, Principal Scientific Officer (Planning & Evaluation), BARC was the coordinator of the workshop. Fifty scientists /officers of different divisions/units/centers/projects attended the workshop.

The Chairperson Dr. Wais Kabir emphasized the proper implementation of the planned activities for achieving the expected outputs and coordination among different divisions/units/centres/ projects of BARC for proper implementation of the planned activities. He urged the participants to make constructive comments on the progress of activities and future work plan. A total of 14 progress reports/work plans were presented in the workshop by the heads/representatives of the divisions/units/centres/projects. Each presentation was followed by threadbare discussion on matters relating to justification and usefulness of the activities undertaken.

NATP Organized Regional Workshop

Project Coordination Unit (PCU) of National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP)

organized a day-long regional workshop entitled *Outreach and Information Dissemination Workshop- 2010* for Jessore-Khulna Region on 26 October 2010 in the Conference Room of Hotel Sunmoon International, Jessore.

The workshop was designed and organized with the objectives to provide opportunities for the implementing partners, particularly regional implementers to get together to review the project activities, assess the progress/achievements, identify regional problems and find solution to them, identify transferable technology for the region, share experiences and discuss other related issues like capacity building, technology updating, productivity and income enhancement, etc.

Mainly the upazila and district level officers of the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), Department of Livestock Services (DLS) and Department of Fisheries (DoF) were the target participants of the workshop. Among others, the Project Director of PCU, Directors of PIUs, Experts/Consultants of PCU/PIUs and researchers participated in the workshop. In total 127 participants attended the workshop- 41 from DAE, 30 from DLS, 29 from DoF, 01 from KGF, 01 from Hortex, 06 from PCU, 14 from NARS institutes and 06 from the local print and electronic media.

The workshop had 4 sessions with 9 power point presentations from DAE, DLS, DoF, Hortex, BARI, BRRI, BJRI, BSRI and PCU. The workshop attended by the representatives from all implementing units ended amidst power point presentations, lively discussion on the presentations as well as problems and prospects of NATP. Besides, the workshop helped orient the local participants about the concept, goals, activities and outputs/outcomes of NATP. The workshop ended with the suggestions and recommendations which may be the useful tools for the implementers, planners and policy makers for proper designing of the project activities in future. Some of the major recommendations are:

1. Interdepartmental coordination at upazila and district level to be strengthened through frequent meeting and consultation among

DAE, DLS and DoF; and also by holding of UECC and DECC meeting regularly, maybe first or last week of every month.

2. Timely planning and implementation of MEP and UzEP and regular field monitoring and reporting by the concerned authorities to be ensured and strengthened. Quick action on the findings of monitoring should be taken to improve the activities and accelerate the implementation.
3. DAE, DLS and DoF should work in a more coordinated way to support FIAC to be developed as an effective one stop service center for CIG members. All departments should provide sufficient extension materials and inputs to FIAC. DECC and UECC will settle sitting arrangement of CEAL and LEAF in FIAC where problem arises.
4. Researchable issues/problems to be identified from the field (in consultation with CIG) during project implementation and feedback to researchers. High priority should be given to research on the identified problems to find solutions. Climate resilient varieties and production technologies to be developed.
5. Impacts/outcomes of the project activities, particularly the influences of demonstrated technologies (i.e. adoption of improved technologies, increased productivity, higher farm incomes, farmer-market linkages, institution building, etc.) should reach the neighboring farmers beyond CIGs. All these should be recorded upazila wise.

Implementation Progress of SPGR Sub- Projects

A review workshop was held at the BARC during 08-10 August 2010 on *Inception/ Implementation Progress of 39 SPGR Sub-Projects*. The workshop was organized by the Project Implementation Unit (PIU)-BARC under the guidance of the Planning and Evaluation Division of BARC. The objectives of the workshop were;

- Reporting/ presentation by the Coordinator/

Principal Investigator (PI) of the Sponsored Public Goods Research (SPGR) sub-project on the plan of work undertaken or to be undertaken as per approved sub-project document.

- Reporting/presentation on progress/plan in respect of technical, procurement and financial matter.
- Understanding the status and stocktaking of the grants offered.



A View of Workshop on Inception/Implementation Progress of SPGR Sub-Project

In total 226 persons joined the 3-day workshop of seven sessions. All the Coordinators, Principal Investigators and the Co-Principal Investigators of the SPGR sub-projects, including the scientists of BARC, PCU and KGF attended the workshop. Dr. Wais Kabir, Executive Chairman, BARC inaugurated the workshop as chief guest. In his speech, the Executive Chairman stressed the need for quality SPGR program and dissemination of their findings for the benefit of the users. The success of these sub-project activities would greatly dictate the future research investment in agriculture, he added. Dr. Sk. Ghulam Hussain, Member Director (Planning & Evaluation) presided over the inaugural session while Dr. Md. Abul Kashem, Director of PIU-BARC, NATP gave the welcome address. After each presentation by the Principal Investigators, lively discussions were held and different useful comments/suggestions came up. These, as far as practicable, were decided to be taken into account for modification and revision of the sub-project

activities. Considering the importance of such event, it was decided to hold such workshop at certain interval and the next one is expected to be organized sometime in January/February 2011.

BSRI Research Review Program-2010

Annual Research Program Review Workshop-2010 of Bangladesh Sugarcane Research Institute was held during 2-3 August 2010 at BSRI, Ishurdi. Dr. Wais Kabir, Executive Chairman of BARC attended the inaugural program as chief guest. Presided over by the Director General of BSRI, Dr. M. A. Samad Miah, the program was addressed among others by Md. Abdur Rashid, CSO and In-charge, RSRs, Gazipur, Dr. Delwar Hussain, Former DG and Dr. Md. Iqbal, CSO and Director (Research) of BSRI.



A view of the workshop where Dr. Wais Kabir, EC, BARC was present as chief guest

The chief guest Dr. Wais Kabir, expressed concern over the country's increasing dependence on imported sugar and gradual decrease of sugarcane cultivation in the country and called upon the sugarcane scientists to place some effective recommendations through the workshop with a view to strengthening sugarcane research in Bangladesh.

Review and monitoring help increase standard of research, Dr. Kabir said adding that measures are being taken to allocate resources based on review report. The scientists



Participants of BSRI Research Review Program-2010

from headquarters, regional centers and sub centers of BSRI participated in the program. Several recommendations were drawn on the basis of the valuable suggestions made by the scientists and expert members from different institutions.

ICT/MIS Activities of NARS Institutes

Computer and GIS unit, BARC organized a workshop on *ICT/MIS activities of NARS Institutes*. The meeting was presided over by Dr. Sk. Ghulam Hussain, Member Director (P&E), BARC. The objective of the meeting was to discuss, identify and decide on current and future issues of MIS/ICT activities of NARS institutes.

Mr. Md. Abeed Hossain Chowdhury, Director (Computer and GIS) of BARC highlighted the present status of ICT/MIS activities undertaken by BARC through NATP.

He discussed the existing ICT infrastructure at NARS institutions and BARC and said a 'Need Assessment' has been completed accordingly. He informed the participants that the tendering process was already initiated and hoped it would be completed shortly. Mr. Chowdhury then discussed the activities taken for development of a MIS Application for NARS including BARC. In this regard he discussed the requirement study activity of NARS including BARC and expected all-out cooperation from all institutions and

participants. The present activities are in line with the recommendations made earlier, he added.

In the meeting the Chair in his deliberation emphasized the need and importance of ICT/MIS in the field of agricultural research, planning and development. In this regard he laid emphasis on the development of ICT/ MIS facilities within NARS and advised the scientists to use ICT as tools of their regular activities. He gave importance on strengthening and development of ICT/ MIS activities at NARS.

At the same time he pointed out the lack of manpower in the NARS institutes and suggested for necessary steps for creating a permanent ICT-MIS unit for each organization.

Research Review Workshop on Soil Management Program of NARS Institutes

A three day *Research Review Workshop on Soil Management Program of NARS Institutes* was held during 20-22 September 2010 at BARC Conference Room. Dr Wais Kabir, Executive Chairman, BARC was present as chief guest while Dr. Sk. Ghulam Hussain, Member-Director (P&E) chaired the inaugural session. Dr. M. A. Satter, CSO (Soils) delivered a brief welcome address in the inaugural session. Dr. Kabir, in his inaugural speech said that soil fertility is declining day by day due to intensive land use to meet the food demand of the growing population. The proper management of soil is, therefore, essential to restore soil fertility to ensure sustainable agricultural productivity. Dr. Wais Kabir further said the Fertilizer Recommendation Guide compiled and published by BARC in 2005 is being widely used in the country for making fertilizer recommendations. He called upon the soil scientists participating in the workshop to provide recommendations considering land use policy and agricultural policy of the country for the greater interest of the nation. Dr. Sk. Ghulam Hussain said a committee for updating Fertilizer Recommendation Guide has already been formed and hopefully an updated guide could be published in a year with updated

data and information. NARS scientists have presented their last year's research results and future research programs in the 6th technical sessions of the workshop. They made some important recommendations after a threadbare discussion in the recommendation sessions. More than 80 scientists, professors and officers from NARS institutes, BARC, universities and DAE participated in the workshop.

Executive Council Meeting



Dr. Wais Kabir addressing the EC meeting

The 84th *Executive Council Meeting* was held at BARC Conference Room on 10 August 2010. The meeting was presided over by Dr. Wais Kabir, Executive Chairman of BARC and President of the Executive Council. The meeting reviewed implementation and progress of the decisions taken in the 83rd meeting. The meeting approved the report on 'Recruitment/ Promotion Criteria of NARS Scientists' submitted by the Criteria Review Committee.

Agricultural Technology Transfer Project: Achievement

Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) has been implementing the project entitled *Agricultural Technology Transfer* (ATT) since July 2005 with the financial assistance of Japan Debt Cancellation Fund (JDCF). This Project has been undertaken with a view to bringing together and facilitating linkages among research, extension, farmers and entrepreneurs for transferring agricultural technologies and

marketing their products. They would ultimately help in improving the livelihood of the resource poor farmers. The primary objectives of the project are: transfer of matured technologies; technology refinement and validation; entrepreneurship development, strengthening research, extension and farmers market linkages; and capacity development of farmers and stakeholders. Among these, BARC has implemented technology refinement/validation, and technology transfer activities through NARS institutes, agricultural universities, and GO-NGO partnership. During the year 2009-10 ATT provided funds to 5 agencies (NARS institutes and agricultural universities) for implementation 11 refinement and validation sub-projects in the field of crops, fisheries and 4 agencies (GOs) in association with 11 NGOs (GO-NGOs partnership) to implement 11 technology transfer sub-projects in crops and livestock. On the other hand, 50 sub-projects (Crops-26, Livestock-11, Fisheries-9, and Agroforestry-4) on 31 agricultural technologies (Crops-18, Livestock-5, Fisheries-4 and Agroforestry-4) were implemented during the reporting year by 33 selected NGOs from 43 Upazillas under 32 districts under the supervision of BARC. The following trainings/workshops/ training-workshops/ study visits were organized by the NARS Institutes:

- Training on use of manual for fertilizer analysis (NRM, BARC)
- Training on alternate crop based fish/shrimp culture technique (BFRI-Cox's Bazar)
- Training on cage culture in riverine system (BFRI-Chandpur)
- Training on forest technologies professionals development organization (FRI-Chittagong)
- Training on flower production and marketing (TTMU-BARC)
- ToT on value chain/BDS Under entrepreneurship development (MIDAS Training Centre)
- Workshop on wood timber and fruit yielding plants in Bangladesh (NRM-BARC)
- Workshop on Ekti Bari Ekti Khamar (TTMU-BARC)
- Training workshop on Business development

(BDS) and market development approach (MDA) (Thailand)

- Training workshop on agricultural research and research management (Philippines)
- Agricultural research and development program (Vietnam)
- Agricultural Technology Transfer and Extension System (Malaysia & Thailand).

Foundation Training

The inaugural program of the *21st Foundation Training Course* was held at Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD), Comilla on 19 Sept. 2010. Comprising of 40 Scientists from NARS Institutes, the training was arranged to give exposure to newly recruited scientists of NARS institutes in the areas concerning administration, financial management and information technology. Mr. Md. Ataur Rahman, Director General, BARD chaired the inaugural session where Dr. Wais Kabir, Executive Chairman, BARC was present as chief guest and Dr. SM Khalilur Rahman, Member-Director (AERS) as special guest. Dr. Md. Mokhlesur Rahman, Director, Training and Communication, BARI was also present as guest of honor. Dr. Md. Anwar Zahid, Director, Training, BARD gave the welcome address.



A view of the inaugural ceremony of the Foundation Training

Underlining the need for foundation training Dr. Wais Kabir hoped that the knowledge gained from this training would definitely help the agricultural scientists of NARS to build their career in their respective organization. He also thanked all concerned for making this training programme a success. Dr. S M Khalilur Rahman advised the participants to utilize the knowledge gained through such training.

Training on Research Methodology

A training course on Research Methodology was held during 21 September-7 October 2010 at Graduate Training Institute, Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh organized by BARC under the NATP financial supports. The training program aimed at imparting knowledge of scientific methodology of research to the young scientists. Dr. SM Khalilur Rahman, Member-Director (AERS) was present as chief guest. Dr. Md. Nazrul Islam, Director, GTI chaired the inaugural session. Dr. Md. Abul Kashem, Director, PIU was also present as special guest.



Dr. S M Khalilur Rahman, Member-Director (AERS) distributed the certificates among the participants

MoU signed between Bangladesh and Korea

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Bangladesh and the Korean Government on Development of variety, cropping system research and technology transfer of major cereals for sustainable food security in Bangladesh under the Asian Food and Agriculture Cooperation Initiative Country Project (AFACI) at BARC conference Room on 5 August 2010. In this connection a meeting was held at BARC Conference Room with Additional Secretary (PPC) of the Ministry of Agriculture. Mr. Md. A Z M Shafiqul Alam in the chair. The meeting discussed the potential of future collaboration in agriculture between the two countries. The concerned officers of BARC were present on the occasion.

Foreign Visitors Meet Executive Chairman

USDA Deputy Administrator Ms. Patricia Sheikh, Mr. David Leishman, Regional Agricultural



Dr. Wais Kabir Exchanging views with USDA Deputy Administrator Ms. Patricia Sheikh at his office.

Attache American Embassy, New Delhi, India and Marc C Gilkey, APHIS (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service) Attaché from the United States Department of Agriculture, American Embassy, New Delhi, India met Executive Chairman, BARC on 9 September 2010 and exchanged views on the status of current Bangladesh agricultural research and USDA's past and future collaboration in agricultural research.

Mr. Promod Kumar Aggarwal, Regional Facilitator (IGP), Challenge Program on Climate Change, Agricultural and Food Security (CAFS), IWMI, Md. Giasuddin Khan Ph.D, Senior Scientist, WorldFish Centre met Executive Chairman, BARC on 31 August 2010. In the meeting they discussed the agricultural research system in Bangladesh and cooperation in research.

Dr. Manoj Mehta, In-charge (Export-Import), Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Ltd, Mumbai, India accompanied by AHM Humayun Kabir, Deputy Managing Director, Supreme Seed Company Ltd, Dhaka met Executive Chairman, BARC on 5 August 2010 and exchanged views on the marketing potentiality of Indian rice and wheat hybrid seeds in Bangladesh.

Visit Abroad

Dr. Wais Kabir, Executive Chairman of BARC, visited Addis Ababa, Ethiopia during 17-19 August 2010 to attend the CGIAR's Mega Program 2 (MP2) "Policies, Institutions and Strengthen Assets and Agricultural Incomes for the Poor"

organized by Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) Centre.

Dr. Sk. Ghulam Hussain, Member Director (P&E), BARC attended "A Policy makers and practitioners exchange on climate change adaptation in Agriculture" during 30 August to 01 September 2010 in Thailand.

Dr. Khalequzzaman Aknada Chowdhury, Member Director (Crops), BARC attended Workshop on 2nd National Focal Point Meeting of Project : GCP/RAS/240/JNP during 6-10 September 2010 in Thailand.

Dr. Md. Rafiqul Islam Mondal, Chief Scientific Officer (Crops) and Member Director (Fisheries), BARC attended the Meeting on Harnessing the development potential of aquatic agriculture system for the poor and vulnerable during 19-21 August 2010 at World Fish Center, Penang, Malaysia.

Mr. Rafique Mostafa Kamal, Principal Librarian BARC attended the Workshop on ICT/ICM for National Agricultural Research Information in the Asia-Pacific Region during 14-16 September 2010 organized by APAARI in Thailand. The workshop was aimed to assist the member NARS with new capacities for better agricultural information management through revitalizing APARIS activities and through which strengthening global ICM4ARD initiatives to improve effective use of information by all ARD stakeholders in the region and the world over.

Dr. Rafiqul Islam Mondal, Chief Scientific Officer (Crops), BARC and Director (SAC) attended the Initiatives on Regional Food Security Project Formulation in India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka (1) 16-17 September 2010 (2) 21-23 September, 2010 India/Pakistan/ Sri Lanka Asian Development Bank.

Dr. Mian Sayeed Hassan, PSO (Crops), BARC attended the Training Workshop on Rural Development for High Level Officers of AFACI Member Countries during 7-14 August 2010 Suwon, Republic of Korea.

The Encyclopedia of Flora and Fauna of Bangladesh Now at BARC Library

The *Encyclopedia of Flora and Fauna of Bangladesh* is the first illustrated compendium of all the life forms so far identified in Bangladesh. In 28 volumes it makes an exhaustive inventory of the whole range of plant and animal species in the country. While focusing mainly on the description, habits and habitats of the various species, comments are also made on their economic and ecological significance. Published both in Bangla and English the encyclopedia should be useful to those working for biodiversity conservation, teachers and students of the natural sciences, as well as general readers.



The encyclopedia is compiled and edited by a team of experts with contributions from the leading scientists and researchers of the country, making it an authoritative reference work.

Readers and Contributors

The scientists, technologists and concerned officials involved in NARS institutes are requested to send articles, success stories, research highlights and reports on important events with quality photographs for BARC Newsletter. Cooperation in this regard as well as your valuable comments and suggestions for our future endeavour would be highly appreciated.

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